

SILSDEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1895.

Area, 7,060 acres; *Rateable Value* (1895), £11,619; *Inhabited Houses* (1871), 596; (1881), 752; (1891), 841; *Population enumerated* (1871), 2,714; (1881), 3,329; (1891), 3,866; *Estimated* (1895), 4050.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.—During the first half of the year the district was without an Inspector of Nuisances, as there was considerable delay in appointing a successor to Mr. Rodwell. On July 2nd Mr. Henry Longbottom was appointed to the office, since which time good progress has been made in the abatement of nuisances.

SANITARY CONDITION AND PROGRESS.—WATER SUPPLY.—The town possesses a constant and plentiful supply of water. This is supplied by gravitation from the Council's own reservoirs. Their storage capacity is small, but should the necessity arise, water can be drawn from the works of the Bradford Corporation. No shortness of supply has been experienced this year. An extension of water main was laid from Elliott Street to Aire View consisting of 80 yards of 3-inch main, and another extension of 80 yards in Spring Gardens; also one of 50 yards of 2-inch main to new property at the back of Skipton Road. 39 new houses have been connected with the service during the year. In outlying parts of the district the inhabitants are dependent for their supply upon private wells and springs, and water is in a few instances piped into the house.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—At the commencement of the year plans were submitted to the Local Government Board with an application for sanction to borrow £10,646 for sewerage purposes. Delay was caused in consequence of the Council's having to effect an exchange of land with the Keighley Rural District Council, as this was required for the sewage farm.

COUNTY COUNCIL INQUIRY.—The County Council held an Inquiry in April into the proposal to exchange a portion of land on the boundary of the district, consisting of about 7 acres, 2 roods, for a portion of about 11 acres in the Steeton Township of the Keighley Rural District, and this was subsequently granted.

A Local Government Board Inquiry was held on Nov. 19th by W. J. Bird Clarke, Esq., M.I.C.E. into the proposed scheme for the sewerage of the town, prepared by Mr. Charles Gott, C.E., of Bradford, and the sanction to the loan for the purpose was received on Dec. 23rd. The tenders for the contracts have not yet been advertised, but it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in pushing on with the work, which is so necessary, and has been so long delayed.

EXCREMENT AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.—Great improvement has taken place during late years in the method of excrement disposal. The privies in the town used to belong chiefly to the old fashioned uncovered midden type. These are being gradually converted into privies with moveable receptacles. All those of recent erection are constructed on plans in accordance with the principles advocated in the model bye-laws. In outlying parts of the district, the privies are either of the uncovered midden type, or what are known as block privies. Since the year 1887 the Board undertook by contract the removal of nightsoil and ashpit refuse, and the work has on the whole been well done. In April of last year the Board decided to undertake the work, and purchased two scavenging carts and a horse for the purpose. The work is done in the daytime, and has been fairly well carried out during the past year.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—The Board possesses bye-laws with respect to “Slaughter-houses” and “Common Lodging-houses,” which were allowed in 1884, and with respect to “New Streets and Buildings,” allowed in 1885. They are, with a few modifications, closely assimilated to the “Model Bye-laws” of the Local Government Board. A series of Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops’ Order, 1886, has been adopted.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ADOPTED.—The “Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889,” was adopted in 1893, and came into operation on January 27th, 1894. Part III of the “Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890,” was adopted in April of last year.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.—This Authority has no means available for the proper isolation of cases of infectious disease, nor for the stoving and disinfection of bedding, clothing, &c. This provision should be made either for this district alone, or in combination with other neighbouring Authorities, which latter method would be found to be the more economical.

BOARD’S OFFICES.—Application was made this year to the Local Government Board to sanction the borrowing of £500, terms having been agreed upon between the District Council and the trustees of the Mechanics’ Institute for the transfer of their premises to the Council, a portion to be used as Board-room and Offices. No intimation of any Inquiry has yet been received.

POPULATION.—At the census of 1871 the population was 2,714 living in 596 houses, and that of 1881 was 3,329 living in 752 houses. At the census of 1891 it was found to be 3,866 living in 841 houses. I have estimated it up to the middle of 1895 to be 4,050 living in 1,039 houses, or an average of 3·8 per house.

BIRTHS.—The total births registered were 131 in number (64 males and 67 females). This is an increase of 32 upon last year, and is equivalent to a birth rate of 32·3 per 1,000, as compared with 24·7 last year and 28·8 in 1893. The natural increase to the population was 64.

DEATHS.—The total deaths returned were 67 in number (41 males and 26 females). This is an increase of 7 upon last year, and is equivalent to an annual death rate of 16·5 per 1,000 living, as compared with 15·0 last year, and 19·7 in 1893.

The deaths occurred in each quarter as follows:—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
1884	12	12	15	11
1885	25	17	16	14
1886	17	6	17	21
1887	15	10	22	15
1888	22	13	20	17
1889	15	16	19	23
1890	20	15	7	19
1891	16	42	9	15
1892	14	35	11	12
1893	18	18	21	21
1894	13	18	14	15
1895	20	16	19	12

The mortality as to age was as follows:—

Deaths under 1 year of age.....	18	} 26 under 5 years of age.
„ over 1 year and under 5 ..	8	
„ „ 5 „ ..	15 .. 1	} 41 over 5 years of age.
„ „ 15 „ ..	25 .. 2	
„ „ 25 „ ..	60 .. 16	
„ „ 60	22	
Total..		67

TABLE I.

Table showing population, inhabited houses, births, and deaths for the last twelve years 1884-95 inclusive, and also the average of the decade, 1878-87:—

Year.	Population.	Inhabited Houses.	Births.	Deaths.*
1884	3560	835	113	50
1885	3630	786	95	72
1886	3700	840	117	62
1887	3770	840	105	64
Average of 10 years 1878-87.	3457	..	110	67
1888	3860	840	111	75
1889	3940	840	118	73
1890	4020	874	122	62
1891	3866	841	120	83
1892	3900	890	121	73
1893	3950	950	114	78
1894	4000	1030	99	60
1895	4050	1039	131	67

* Including deaths of persons belonging to the District who died in the Skipton Work-house.

TABLE II.

Table showing the average annual birth rate, rates of mortality, death rates among children, and deaths in public institutions, for the ten years 1878-87, and in the last twelve years.

Year.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Annual rate of mortality per 1,000 living.	Deaths of Children under 1 year; percentage of total deaths.	Percentage of deaths of Children under 1 year to registered births.	Deaths of Children under 5 years; percentage of total deaths.	Total number of deaths in Public Institutions.
1884	31.7	14.0	24.0	10.6	32.0	2
1885	26.1	20.1	15.0	11.5	26.5	1
1886	31.6	16.7	19.3	10.2	33.8	1
1887	27.8	16.9	20.3	12.3	42.1	2
Mean for Decade 1878-87	32.0	19.5	20.2	12.3	33.8	1.3
1888	28.7	19.4	13.3	9.0	26.6	3
1889	29.9	18.5	24.6	15.2	36.9	0
1890	30.3	15.4	20.9	10.6	30.6	1
1891	31.0	21.4	25.3	17.5	37.3	1
1892	31.0	18.7	31.5	19.0	43.8	1
1893	28.8	19.7	20.5	14.0	26.9	0
1894	24.7	15.0	18.3	11.1	31.6	0
1895	32.3	16.5	26.8	13.7	38.8	0

The birth rate is 7.6 above that of last year which was the lowest on record, and is higher than it has been since 1883. The general death rate is higher than that of last year, but is much below the average. There is an increase in the infant mortality which is above the average. The percentages to total deaths of deaths of children under one and under five years are also above the average. Among persons aged 60 years and upwards there were 22 deaths, or a percentage to total deaths of 32.8.

MEAN AGE AT DEATH.—The mean age at death was 35.8 (35.5 for males and 36.3 for females) as compared with 38.2 last year and 44.2 in 1893.

TABLE III.

Table showing number of deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, uncertified deaths, and inquests, with their percentage to total deaths, during the years 1893, 1894, and 1895.

	Deaths.			Percentage of Total Deaths.		
	1893	1894	1895	1893	1894	1895
Certified	74	55	61	94.8	91.6	91.0
Uncertified	4	3	5	5.1	5.0	7.4
Inquests .....	..	2	1	..	3.3	1.4

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS IN 1895.

Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Cause Assigned.
Spring Bank	M	64	Probably Apoplexy.
James Square.....	M	3	General Weakness & Bronchitis.
St. John's Street	M	30 minutes.	Premature Birth.
Kirkgate	F	57	Cardiac Syncope.
Lodge	M	86	Old Age.

TABLE IV.

Table showing the mortality from certain classes of diseases, and proportions to population and to 1,000 deaths, in the years 1893, 1894, and 1895.

	Total Deaths.			Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			Proportion of deaths to 1,000 deaths.		
	1893	1894	1895	1893	1894	1895	1893	1894	1895
1. Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases	10	3	6	2.5	0.7	1.4	128	50.0	89.5
2. Pulmonary Diseases (other than Phthisis)	14	17	12	3.5	4.2	2.9	179	283	179
3. Tubercular Diseases	7	4	8	1.7	1.0	1.9	89.7	66.6	119
4. Wasting Diseases of Infants.....	2	1	6	0.5	0.2	1.4	25.6	16.6	89.5
5. Convulsive Diseases of Infants.....	4	2	1	1.0	0.5	0.2	51.2	33.3	14.9

NOTES.

1. Includes Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever, and Diarrhœa.

3. Includes Phthisis, Scrofula, Rickets, and Tabes.

4. Includes Marasmus, Atrophy, Debility, Want of Breast Milk, and Premature Birth.

5. Includes Hydrocephalus, Infantile Meningitis, Convulsions, and Teething.

Among the above classes of disease the greatest increase is shown in the deaths from Tubercular Diseases and Wasting Diseases of Infants, whilst those due to the Pulmonary Diseases have decreased.

TABLE V.

Table showing the number of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases in the years 1893, 1894, and 1895.

Disease.	Total Deaths.			Proportion of deaths to 1,000 deaths.		
	1893	1894	1895	1893	1894	1895
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	2	..	..	25·6	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	Mem. Croup. 2	..	Mem. Croup, 1	25·6	..	14·9
Whooping Cough.....	..	1	2	..	16·6	29·8
Fever.....	1	2	..	12·8	33·3	..
Diarrhœa	5	..	3	64·1	..	44·7

Six deaths were returned under the head of Zymotic Disease, as against three last year, and 10 in 1893. This is equivalent to a Zymotic rate of 1·4 per 1,000 living. 37 certificates were received under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

SCARLATINA.—In all, 15 cases were notified throughout the year. Of these, three were single isolated cases, and occurred respectively in January, April, and November. The remaining 12 cases occurred in June and July, four of them being in one house, and the others single cases. The disease in most instances was very mild in type, and the source of infection not traceable. As there is no isolation hospital, the cases had to be dealt with in the houses where they occurred. Precautions were given, and disinfectants supplied in each case.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—A single death was returned from this cause, in a child of 16 months, in May. No insanitary condition was found on the premises.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Two deaths were registered from “Whooping Cough and Bronchitis” in young children in September and October.

TYPHOID FEVER.—No death was returned from this disease, but 11 cases were notified. Two cases occurred in one house in King Street, the first in a girl of 13, in January, and the second in a lad of 18, in August. No clue was discovered to the origin of the disease. A single case was reported in October, that of a woman aged 33, living in Aire View. The house was a back to back house, but the drainage appeared satisfactory. In November three cases were notified in one house in Hothfield Street, in children aged eleven, seven, and five years, and one case in another house in the same street, that of a young man of 20, a labourer who worked at Keighley. These houses are of recent erection, and the origin of the cases could not be accounted for. A girl of 18 living at Low House was also attacked in November. There was no clue to the origin of this case.

In December, three cases were notified. The first of these was a child, aged five, in Mitchell Square. Here no fault was to be found with the house-drainage. A girl of 15, living in Chapel Street, was the next case, and at this house there was a rubble drain and the slopstone pipe was directly connected with it and untrapped. This condition of things was subsequently altered. The last was an imported case in a man aged 28, who was on a visit, in King Street, and was ill when he arrived. The majority of the cases were very mild in character and all made a good recovery. Precautions were given, and disinfectants supplied throughout the progress of the cases, and the premises were subsequently disinfected. Again however, owing to the absence of a hospital, the cases could not be removed from their homes.

CONTINUED FEVER.—A single case, that of a child aged three years, living in Kirkgate, was notified as “Continued Fever” in January, and was of a doubtful character. No clue was found to the origin of the illness.

ERYSIPELAS.—Nine cases were notified during the year. These occurred, two each in June, July, and September, and one each in March, May, and August. Four were males and five females, and all were over five years of age.

DIARRHŒA.—Three deaths were returned under this head. All were infants and they occurred in February, July, and September respectively.

INFLUENZA.—Three deaths were registered as due to Influenza and its complications, in March, April, and May, in adults.

TABLE VI.

House Drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	3
Do. trapped and ventilated	6
Pail Closets provided	34
Water Supply, Houses provided with	39
Ashpits, new provided.....	34
Do. repaired, covered, &c.	2
No. of Ashpits ordered to be emptied	1
Removal of accumulation of dung, stagnant water, animal and other refuse ..	8
Removal of animals improperly kept	2
Closure of houses unfit for habitation	1
Overcrowding	1
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	4
Slaughter houses inspected.....	6
Dairies and cowsheds inspected.....	6
Canal boats inspected	20

HENRY LONGBOTTOM,
Certificated Inspector of Nuisances.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, &c.—The six *slaughter houses* have been regularly inspected and are fairly well kept. There is no *common lodging house* in the district. There are no *noxious trades*. One instance of *overcrowding* was reported, and this was abated after notice. No case of *unsound meat*, exposed for sale, has come to my knowledge. No *legal proceedings* have been undertaken.

I reported upon a house as “unfit for human habitation” under the “Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890,” situated at Crag End, on Silsden Moor. Notice was served by the Council, and the premises were vacated.

20 Canal boats were examined by Mr. Wm. Harrison, the Inspector under the Act, and no action was necessary.

The matters requiring the attention of the Council are :—

1. The carrying out of the scheme which has been sanctioned for the proper sewerage of the town, with as little delay as possible.
2. The provision of (*a*) a hospital for the isolation of cases of infectious disease, together with (*b*) efficient stoving apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c., and (*c*) an ambulance for the proper removal of cases; either for this District alone, or in combination with other neighbouring Authorities.

FRANCIS E. ATKINSON, L.R.C.P. (London), M.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Silsden Urban District Council,
February, 1896.

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